

tools. "I install and service garage doors and use my Ryobi 18-volt impact gun and 18-volt hammer drill on a daily basis. I haven't had one fail yet. These tools compare well with 'top of the line' cordless tools. I couldn't be more satisfied."

On the negative side, "I've had continual problems with my 2005 **Englander** pellet stove. The first year a vacuum hose failed, which wasn't a big deal but was inconvenient. The next year a feed auger motor seized, which caused the auger to 'melt'. Last year that motor went out again. The parts were relatively easy to replace, but it really stinks when the stove is your main heat source and it's below freezing outside. To the company's credit, they stood by their product even when the stove was out of warranty. They replaced the defective parts without charge to me."

Mark Musser, Beecher City, Ill.: Mark likes **K & W Block Seal** (CRC Industries, ph 800 556-5074; www.crcindustries.com). The product comes in a 16-oz. can and is said to form a permanent molecular bond that's as strong as steel. It can be used to seal cracks and holes in cast iron and aluminum engine blocks, head gaskets, freeze plugs, radiators, heater cores, water pumps, etc.



"Follow the directions completely and it will help you out of a bind. It fixes problems at a very reasonable cost."

Mark Ten Pas, Sheboygan, Wis.: "I like my 1999 **Snowflame** corn burning stove. It has been trouble-free with the exception of one fan motor, which cost \$50 to replace. I use it to heat my 2,400 sq. ft. ranch house. I can buy any parts I need at the local hardware store."

Kevin Rief, Greencastle, Indiana: Kevin likes his 2005 **Kubota** BX1830 sub compact tractor. "This tractor has outperformed itself for its size. It's equipped with a hydrostatic transmission, power steering, high and low range transmission, front wheel assist, 54-in. mid mount mower, rear 3-pt. hitch, and pto."

Alvin Price, Fairbank, Iowa: "My 2004 **Chevrolet** Silverado extended cab pickup makes a clunking noise and a vibrating noise under the hood. The dealer put on some new parts to try to solve the clunking noise, but it always starts up again after about a month of driving. I've given up on it. My next pickup will be a Dodge."

"My **Drill Doctor** 350X is a best buy."

Doug White, Unity, Sask.: Doug's had problems with **Ford** pickups, including a 2000 Ford F-150 2-WD Supercab, a 2003 Ford F-150 Supercrew, and a 2006 Ford F-150 Supercrew. "The Supercab model came with a 4.6-liter engine which had good acceleration but lousy top end."

"The 2003 and 2006 models both had the 5.4-liter Tritan engine, which was very poor for both power and fuel efficiency. At about 45,000 miles the 2003 model started making all kinds of strange noises so I traded it for the 2006 model, but I didn't like it any better. Neither the dealer nor the company would do anything to keep me happy."

"We traded the 2006 model for a 2007 **Dodge** 1500 Mega Cab 4-WD model equipped with a 5.7-liter Hemi engine. It's my best buy. This pickup gets up to 22 mpg and has plenty of power for pulling heavy loads. It also has a lot of storage space and is a well designed pickup, both inside and out. I've found Dodge dealers are great to work with. When my 17-year-old son was ready

for his first vehicle we went straight to Dodge and got a good deal on a 2004 quad cab 1500 4-WD model. The Dodge 1500 is a great pickup. It doesn't surprise me that Ford is in a distant third place behind Dodge, as Dodge continues to gain on GM and may soon become number one in pickups."

Debbie Gabbert, Campbellsville, Ky.: "I like my 2006 **Iron Horse** IHT 284 4-WD compact utility tractor equipped with a 28 hp diesel engine and front-end loader (ph 508 259-6100; www.ironhorsetractor.com). This tractor is really versatile. I use it to do everything from harvesting sorghum cane to loader work. It's compact and maneuvers easily, and it seems more powerful than its 27 hp rating. I have tractors of various sizes, but this one is my favorite."

According to the company website, the tractors sell for 20 to 50 percent less than the competition.

Lloyd Gargus, Frost, Texas: "After renting conventional wood chippers over the years, I bought a **DR** wood chopper and it's my best buy. This is a 3-pt. mounted, top output chute model equipped with a heavy flywheel and a single hardened blade. The output from a conventional flail-type wood chipper is ragged and varies greatly in size, but the output from my DR is clean cut and the chips it makes are about the same size throughout the job. It takes less than five minutes to fill a 55-gal. barrel with chips. I use the chips on the grill for smoking meat. I also sell some of the chips."

Noah W. Zimmerman, Shippensburg, Penn.: "My son in Iowa and my wife and I here in Pennsylvania have 2006 **Bixby** Maxifire 115 corn burning stoves. It's the only heat we use. We just fill the corn hopper, set the heat level, and forget about it. It's an efficient stove that produces very little ash. A definite best buy."

Denny Moore, Litchfield, Ill.: "I use my **Husqvarna** 125 string trimmer to take care of a large cemetery. It's the best trimmer I've ever used. It's lightweight and has a lot of power. The head is easy to load and feeds out without any problems."

Gary D. Hahn, Marble Hill, Mo.: "My 1988 **GM** C-70 truck equipped with a fuel-pitching diesel engine is my best buy. I use it for dump truck operations in the worst possible conditions. After 10 years the only repairs have been two sets of belts and one radiator repair. I ordered this truck with the heaviest possible chassis. It was very expensive but proved to be cheap in the long run."

Jeff Lang, Newport News, Va.: "My **Sears Craftsman** electric cultivator/tiller is my best buy. I use it in my raised bed vegetable garden. I've also used it to work up a 20 by 30-ft. section of lawn and it worked well for that, too."

Donald D. Hagen, Goodrich, N. Dak.: "Four years ago we broke a rockshaft on our **Deere** 750 no-till drill. The dealer ordered a replacement from the factory and promised a one-week delivery. I called once a week to check on the order status. On the fourth week a lady took the call and discovered that the part had never been shipped. She got things rolling, and a week later we got the part. However, the delay cost us a lot because that year we had an early frost and some of our later crops were damaged."

Eric Bygness, Pahrump, Nevada: "My three 1969 **Chevrolet** 1/2-ton pickups are all best buys. One pickup has more than 650,000 miles on it. It has had a few rebuilds but just keeps on going. I hauled firewood for years, transporting about one hundred cords each season with these trucks. They don't make pickups like these any more."

Kenneth Hughes, Durant, Okla.: "Our

"Best Buy" Seed Vacuum

"We came up with the idea for customers but it works so well I use it on my own farm, too," says Carter Barker, Pratt, Kansas, about the **Kwik Kleen** seed vac for cleaning out planters and drills (Vol. 31, No. 1).

Barker has been selling farm equipment for 50 years and also farms.

"We sell tailgate augers for filling grain drills and planters, and our customers kept asking us for a vacuum to clean them out. I called all over the U.S. about five years ago, but I could only find big ones that cost thousands of dollars," he explains.

Barker's employee Norman Forsberg decided to try to come up with something and came up with a 30-lb. wooden box that holds a gas-powered leaf blower/vacuum.

"Today's big drills, which can be 45 ft. long, are a real pain to clean out," says Barker. "In many cases farmers can spend hours. With this unit you can clean it out in minutes."

His customers pay \$200 for the wooden box and supply their own leaf blower/vacuum



Kwik Kleen seed vac works great for cleaning out planters and drills, says Carter Barker, Pratt, Kansas.

(4 1/2 to 5-in. vacuum tube and a minimum 200 mph velocity). They like that it's easy to handle and can sit on the edge of a hopper or mounted on a simple stand in the back of a pickup.

"We've had people come 100 miles to pick them up," says Barker, adding that they can be shipped anywhere.

Contact: **FARM SHOW Followup**, Carter Barker Equipment Co., Inc., 118 S.E. 25th Ave., Pratt, Kansas 67124 (ph 620 672-2490; www.shop.kwikkleenvacuum.com).

2001 **Honda** CRV has more than 97,000 miles on it yet still gets more than 30 mpg on the highway. An air conditioning compressor cracked at 60,000 miles. Otherwise this car has required only routine maintenance. We'd definitely buy another Honda."

Chris Schwartz, Norwood, N.Y.: "I bought a 21 hp **Kubota** gas engine used in 2001 for \$500. I put it on my bandsaw mill and have used it to saw many thousands of board feet of lumber. It still starts right up, winter or summer, with very little vibration and a lot of power. It runs as quiet as a sewing machine and uses only about 2 1/2 gal. of gas per day. As far as I'm concerned this engine has all other brands licked. I'm thoroughly pleased with it."

Bill Suchan, Deming, New Mexico: "My 2008 **Ag-King** (Jinma) 25 hp 4-WD tractor won't start when the temperature is below 50 degrees. I installed a radiator hose heater but it didn't entirely solve the problem. Now I can't find an oil filter for it."

"The owner's manual that came with this tractor is useless. Neither the photos nor the dialog matches the tractor. The shifting lever for the differential lock broke off a few days after I bought it. I had to make a new lever as I couldn't find one anywhere. The dealer is several hundred miles away and never returns my calls. The tractor has less than 50 hours on it, and I'm giving serious thought to selling it before something major breaks."

"The owner's manual that came with this tractor is useless."

Walter Higgenbotham, Wellsville, Mo.: "My **Dixie** zero turn riding mower equipped with a 27 hp engine is an excellent machine. I've used it on all kinds of yards and on tall weeds and small brush. It does a quiet job and is fun to operate."

Michael L. Munson, Pasco, Wash.: "I'm well pleased with my 2003 **Hobart** 135 Mig welder. It operates on 115 volts and is easy to operate. I use it for light steel fabrication and for doing exhaust repairs in my shop. I build hot rods and it's very handy for this type of work. It has four settings, with one of those being an open circuit so I get full amps. I use .030 wire and 75/25 argon-carbon dioxide mix for less splatter and cleaner welds.

"My worst buy is anything electrical from

Harbor Freight. They're cheap, break easy, and have dangerous switches. I do, however, use their grinding wheels and other stuff."

Greg Schiebout, Milaca, Minn.: A 2005 32-ft. hay feeder wagon made by **Oldenkamp, Inc.**, rates as Greg's "best buy" (ph 712 439-1167). "This wagon is easy to hook and unhook and trails nicely. I've used it with animals 400 lbs. and larger, with very little wasted hay. It's well built and is tough enough to withstand almost any kind of abuse."

Darin Bartholomaeus, Mora, Minn.: Darin bought a 1989 **Jeep** Cherokee in 2007 with about 300,000 miles on it. "It always starts. I drive it everywhere. I also drive a 1998 Cherokee and a 1967 M715 military Jeep truck. I've been driving only Jeeps for years. It's a Jeep thing - you wouldn't understand."

John Pratt, Medina, N.Y.: "My 2008 **Chevrolet** 3/4-ton Suburban equipped with a 6.0-liter engine is nowhere near as much truck as my 2005 Suburban with an 8.1-liter. I wish we had that truck back."

Steve Pemberton, Hardin, Mo.: "My 1997 **Ford** Escort sedan is my best buy. Over the years I've installed a new timing belt and a new spring for a total repair cost of about \$80. It now has about 210,000 miles on it and still runs good."

"I bought my 2000 **Deere** 5205 tractor used with 227 hours on it. It's equipped with a plastic gas tank which I can't get to stop leaking. The gearshift levers are poorly located, so when I get off the tractor it's possible to accidentally knock it in gear without even realizing it."

Al Linder, Ray, Minn.: Al's disappointed with his **Husqvarna** 350 chainsaw. "I was able to cut just one cord of firewood before a bolt in the muffler fell out, and another one was ready to fall out. The exhaust then melted the oil case. I took the saw back to the dealer, who replaced it with a new model. He said it was the third saw he'd seen that week with problems like mine. The same problem happened again and this time the engine locked up. The dealer fixed it free of charge but wouldn't give me anything for trade in."

L. R. Roeder, Delmar, Iowa: "My 1980 **Volkswagen** pickup has about 650,000 miles on it. It has had its share of accidents, hitting two deer and totaling out a Ford Focus, so it looks terrible but still gets more than 40 mpg."

Georg Herman, Olney, Ill.: "The Inter-
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